IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE.

In re Application of:

Uwe MICHELSEN et al. Examiner: WILDER, CYNTHIA B.

Serial No.: 10/582,637 Group Art Unit: 1637

Filed: JUNE 12, 2006 Confirmation Number: 2067

Title: METHOD AND KIT FOR THE ISOLATION OF RNA

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir

In response to the telephonic Restriction Requirement initiated April 18, 2008, Applicants hereby elect, with traverse, Group I (claims 1-5), drawn to a method for the isolation of RNA from samples.

The requirement for restriction is respectfully traversed insofar as the Office Action has not demonstrated that an undue searching burden would be required to examine all groups and certainly not to examine at least more than one of the groups (for example, Groups I-II, which are generically directed to isolation of RNA from samples). "If search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner <u>must</u> examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct invention." (Emphasis added.) See, M.P.E.P. \$803.

Withdrawal of the restriction requirement, in its entirety, is earnestly solicited.

Should the Restriction Requirement still be maintained, Applicants will seek reentry of any withdrawn claims once allowable subject matter has been determined.

Serial No.: 10/582.637 -1- MERCK-3177

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,

/Anthony J. Zelano/ Anthony J. Zelano, Reg. No. 27,969 Attorney for Applicant(s)

MILLEN, WHITE, ZELANO & BRANIGAN, P.C. Arlington Courthouse Plaza 1, Suite 1400 2200 Clarendon Boulevard Arlington, Virginia 22201 Telephone: (703) 243-6333 Facsimile: (703) 243-6410

Attorney Docket No.: MERCK-3177

Date: April 29, 2008